



The AMAZING ADVENTURES of ACE INTERNATIONAL™

STORIES
BY DENNIS P.
EICHHORN

#1
\$2.95
PER ISSUE

It's not how
much you can
REMEMBER...

...It's
how much
you can
FORGET!

KUPER

KUPER • ZINGARELLI • CRABB • ALLEN •
MORIARITY • BLANCHARD • STROMBERG •
DANGLE • DOUGAN • WOODRING



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LET'S GET THIS SHOW
ON THE ROAD...

THE BIRTH OF

ACE

INTERNATIONAL

BY DENNIS P. EICHHORN — ARTWORK BY DOUG ALEN

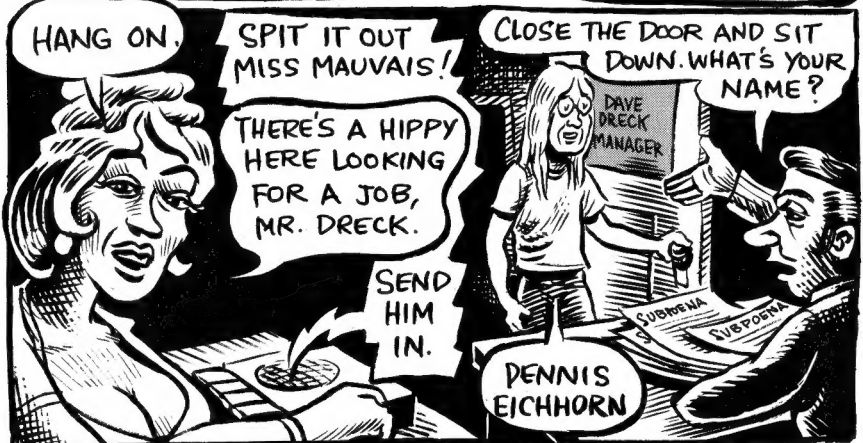


WELCOME TO GRUNGY SEATTLE! IT'S MY HOME
NOW, BUT IT'S NOT WHERE I STARTED
OUT

IT ALL
HAPPENED
IN SAN FRANCISCO,
WAY BACK IN 1976.
A BABE AND I WERE
LIVING IN AN UNFURNISHED
APARTMENT HALF A BLOCK FROM
GOLDEN GATE PARK.

TIMES ARE
TOUGH, LOVE
DOLL... I'M BROKE

WHAT ARE
WE GOING
TO DO?



I'M LOOKING FOR A LEGAL MESSENGER, EICHHORN. YOU GOT A CAR THAT RUNS?

SURE DO.

MR. DRECK

GOOD, THE JOB ITSELF IS SIMPLE. WE PROVIDE YOU WITH LEGAL DOCUMENTS. YOU PERSONALLY DELIVER THEM TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENTS. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE PAY YOU \$3.50 EACH. THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THAT?

YOU BET.

O.K. IF YOU CAN START TODAY, YOU'RE HIRED.

I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

THEN PICK UP SOME MESSAGES FROM MISS MAUVAIS AND GET GOING.

THIS OUGHT TO BE EASY! THREE OF THESE ADDRESSES ARE ON GEARY, AND THE REST ARE OUT IN THE AVENUES.

HERE ARE TEN DOCUMENTS TO BE DELIVERED IN THE SAME PART OF THE CITY. COME BACK BEFORE 5 P.M. AND WE'LL SEE HOW YOU MADE OUT.

ALL RIGHT

WELL, HERE GOES.

YES, WHO IS IT?

KNOCK KNOCK

MESSAGE FOR GLADYS DANIELS FROM ACE LEGAL AID.



THAT WAS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL UNPLEASANT ENCOUNTERS,
BUT BY LATE AFTERNOON, I'D DELIVERED ALL THE DOCUMENTS.





YEP, THAT WAS THE BEGINNING...WORKING AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR FOR A SLEAZY PROCESS SERVING OPERATION



...BUT I NEEDED MONEY AND MADE THE MOST OF IT. SOON I WAS CARRYING AROUND DOZENS OF SUBPOENAS, AND DELIVERING AS MANY AS A HUNDRED A WEEK.



IT GOT PROGRESSIVELY HARDER AS DRECK KEPT THE EASY ONES FOR HIMSELF AND FED ME THE TOUGHIES.

MESSAGE FOR JOHN BROWN FROM ACE LEGAL AID.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM. GET LOST!

STILL, I HAD A FEW TRICKS. FOR INSTANCE, DRECK SUBSCRIBED TO A SERVICE THAT PROVIDED NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS FOR A FEE.

CALIFORNIA 726-H2B

REGISTERED TO SHERYL MCKINLEY, 593 WILSON PLACE, SAUSALITO.

I SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY LOOKING THROUGH OLD CITY DIRECTORIES AND PHONE BOOKS.

AHA, THATS WHERE VLADIMIR HARCHASOWICZ LIVED IN 1973... AND THERE ARE THE NAMES OF HIS NEIGHBORS.

I SPENT HOURS ON STAKEOUTS...

FUCK! DOESNT THIS GUY EVER COME HOME?

PISS

... CHASED PEOPLE DOWN...

STOP! I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM ACE LEGAL AID!

HELP! LEAVE ME ALONE

... AND OCCASIONALLY RESORTED TO DECEPTION.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

FLOWERS AND A MESSAGE FOR RUBY MAE WILLIAMS.

THIS WENT ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE WEATHER TURNED WET AND I TOOK TO WEARING A RAINCOAT AND FEDORA. THEN, ONE NIGHT AT A LOFT PARTY SOUTH OF MARKET STREET...

QUITE A TURNOUT.

I THINK I JUST SAW CLINT EASTWOOD. WAIT, WHAT'S THAT?

SWINE!!

CRETINS, YOU CALL THIS A PARTY?

THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE A FUCKING FERN BAR, AND I HATE FERNS!



IT'S LON CLANSKI

DEATH TO ALL FERNS. TAKE THAT, AND THAT!



MY GOD. HE'S BUTCHERING THAT HELPLESS PLANT!

THIS IS MY PARTY... AND THAT'S MY ASPARAGUS FERN! EITHER KNOCK IT OFF OR LEAVE!



HHMPH, GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME! YOU COULDN'T PAY ME TO STAY.

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS!



I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER



WHAT'S THAT?

HE'S A MANIAC! CALL THE POLICE!

TAKE THAT! NOBODY FUCKS AROUND WITH LON CLANSKI!



C'MON LON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

MORONS, IMBECILES!



LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT LON CLANSKI WAS MORE THAN "JUST ANOTHER CRAZY ATTORNEY." OUR DESTINIES WERE INTERTWINED IN A WAY THAT WOULD CHANGE BOTH OUR LIVES FOREVER.



A COUPLE WEEKS AFTER THE FERN WHIPPING, I WAS SERVING A SUMMONS WHEN I RAN INTO A DRINKING BUDDY.



I'M HEADED FOR A PARTY RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG? I'M SURE YOU'LL BE WELCOME

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!



COME ON IN!





I'M A LEGAL MESSENGER.



THAT RIGHT?
YOU'RE A PROCESS
SERVER?

SNIRK
SNIRK

I PREFER TO THINK OF MY-
SELF AS A WORKER WHO
SERVES THE PEOPLE.



I
MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO USE
A MAN
LIKE
YOU.

USE ME
FOR
WHAT?

I NEED A GOOD
INVESTIGATOR...
SOMEONE WHO
CAN LOCATE WIT-
NESSES, AND
TAKE THEIR
STATEMENTS.



SNIRK

... AND SERVE SUBPOENAS
WHEN THE NEED ARISES

THATS RIGHT
UP MY ALLEY.



LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU
ARE. I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR A WITNESS, AND
ALL I'VE GOT IS HER
LICENSE PLATE
NUMBER.



NO PROBLEM.
WHERE'S YOUR PHONE?

THIS IS ACE LEGAL AID, CODE
76-421-8 I'D LIKE A MAKE
ON CAL. PLATE # 227-2T6....

OK, GOT IT.



DRECK WILL NEVER KNOW

HERE YOU ARE, CLANSKI.

SAY, YOU REALLY
ARE AN ACE!

MADLINE
GUTENNE
453 BLASÉ PL.
TIBURON

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE MY
ACE... MY PERSONAL
INVESTIGATOR. TOGETHER WE
CAN SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

YOU MEAN I GET TO BE AN
INTERNATIONAL ACE?

THAT'S IT! FROM NOW ON
YOU'RE ACE INTERNATIONAL!

GEE, I LIKE THE
SOUND OF THAT

SHAKE!

COUNT
ON IT
CLANSKI!

HERE'S A HUNDRED DOLLARS
FOR THE INVESTIGATION YOU JUST
CONDUCTED AND MY CARD. CALL
ME MONDAY MORNING AND WE'LL
GET YOU STARTED.

LON CLANSKI
CENTRAL TOWER
MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
(415) 555-TORT

AND THAT'S THE TALE OF MY
INCEPTION AS ACE INTERNATIONAL
...AND THE INAUGURATION OF MY
ASSOCIATION WITH
LON CLANSKI

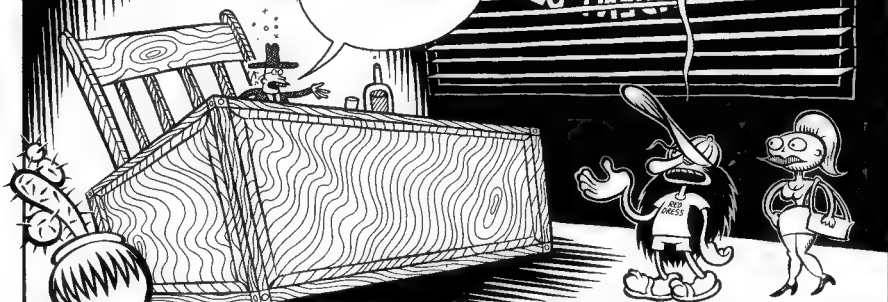
... BUT THAT'S ANOTHER
STORY... AT LEAST.

PROOF

BEING AN EDITOR HAS ITS MOMENTS. TAKE THE TIME MINK AND PEGGY DROPPED BY, FOR INSTANCE...

NOW,
WHAT
HAPPENED?

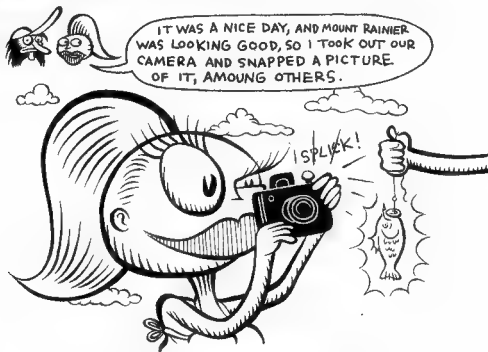
WE WERE
OUT FISHING
ON THE SOUND
BETWEEN BURIE
AND VASHON
ISLAND...



...JUST KILLING SOME
TIME, CATCHING A FEW
RAYS, HAVING A COUPLE BEERS.

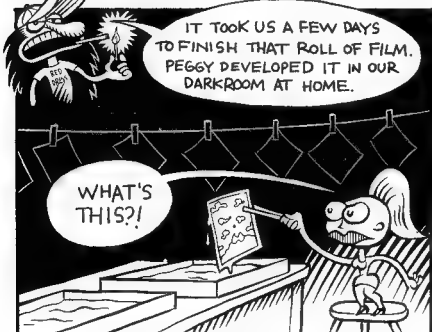


IT WAS A NICE DAY, AND MOUNT RAINIER
WAS LOOKING GOOD, SO I TOOK OUT OUR
CAMERA AND SNAPPED A PICTURE
OF IT, AMONG OTHERS.



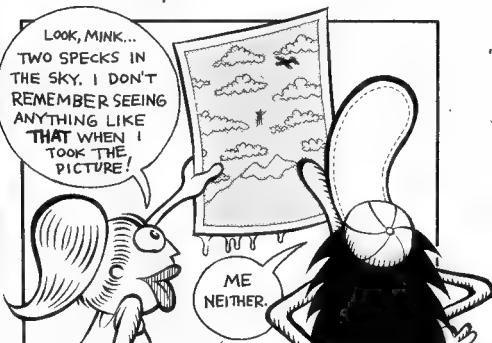
IT TOOK US A FEW DAYS
TO FINISH THAT ROLL OF FILM.
PEGGY DEVELOPED IT IN OUR
DARKROOM AT HOME.

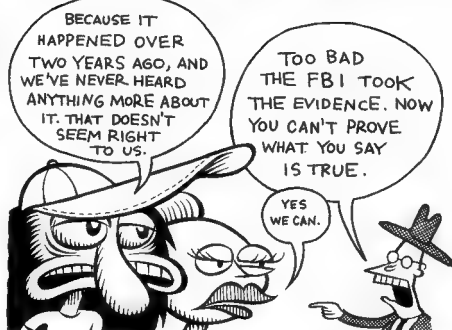
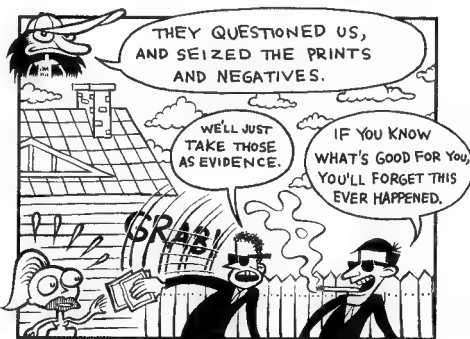
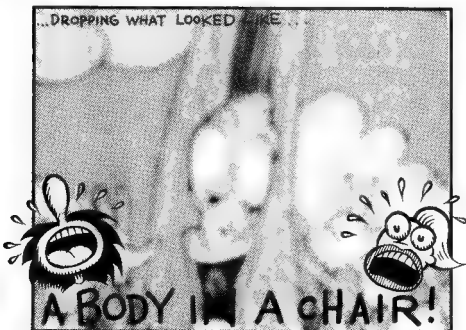
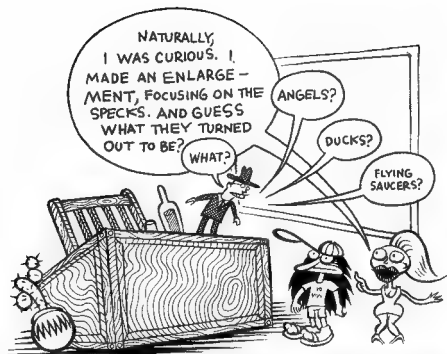
WHAT'S
THIS?!



LOOK, MINK...
TWO SPECKS IN
THE SKY. I DON'T
REMEMBER SEEING
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT WHEN I
TOOK THE
PICTURE!

ME
NEITHER.





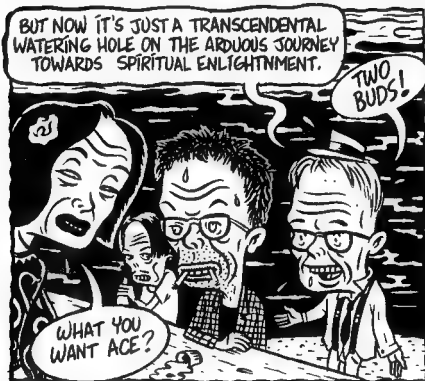
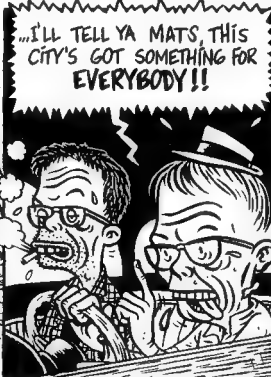
I MADE
ANOTHER PRINT
BEFORE THE
AGENTS CAME.
HERE IT
IS!!

SEE?

YOU'RE
RIGHT. IT'S HARD
TO ARGUE WITH
THIS.

JUICE DRAGON

ANOTHER CASE FROM THE FILES OF "ACE INTERNATIONAL" BY DENNY P. EICHORN & ART BY MATS O. STROMBERG





THE JUICE
DRAGON!!

I SEE
WHAT YOU
MEAN!!



MATS-0-93

The PROGENESIS of

ACE

INTERNATIONAL™

PART 1, BY DENNIS EICHORN, ART: L. DANGLE

WE'VE ALL GOT ALTER EGOS—

SOME OF US HAVE QUITE A FEW...

SEE MY SIGN?

ACE INTERNATIONAL™
INDEPENDENT SLEUTH



...THE GREEN BAY PACKERS DEFEAT THE BALTIMORE COLTS 47-27! BART STARR IS HAVING QUITE A SEASON; HE HASN'T TOSSED AN INTERCEPTION SINCE—

EILEEN! CAN YOU GET ME ANOTHER BEER?



...SEE YOU NEXT WEEK WHEN THE PACK TAKES ON THE 49ERS...

THAT BART STARR IS A GREAT QUARTERBACK! HE HASN'T THROWN AN INTERCEPTED PASS ALL SEASON!

NO. THAT'S NOT RIGHT, DAD.



DON'T ARGUE WITH ME! I KNOW WHAT I JUST HEARD THE ANNOUNCER SAY!

NOBODY COULD GO AN ENTIRE SEASON WITH NO INTERCEPTIONS!



WELL, BART STARR HAS!!

I'LL BET YOU TEN DOLLARS HE HASN'T!!

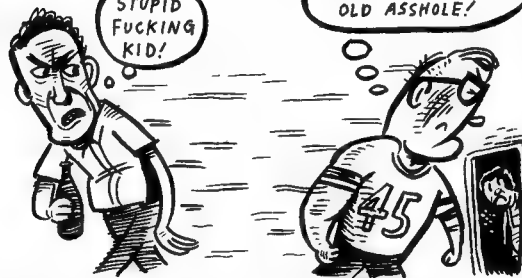
SHAKE ON IT!

OKAY, IT'S A BET!



STUPID FUCKING KID!

FUCKING OPINIONATED OLD ASSHOLE!



AN HOUR LATER

I KNOW THAT I'M RIGHT... BUT HOW CAN I PROVE IT?



DAMN, THIS PISSES ME OFF!

MAYBE I COULD CALL BART STARR UP AND ASK HIM! THAT WOULD DO IT! I'LL USE THE PHONE IN THE FOLKS' BEDROOM.



LET'S SEE... THEY JUST PLAYED IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND... AREA CODE 410, SAYS HERE... I'LL JUST DIAL THE OPERATOR...









IT'S ME AGAIN...
ACE INTERNATIONAL™
EICHHORN'S INVESTIGATIVE
ALTER-EGO.

IT TOOK ME YEARS
TO DEVELOP.

BUT...
YOU LEARN AS
YOU GO...

FOR INSTANCE, I REMEMBER
A TIME BACK IN THE LATE '60 S
WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT...

CHECKMATE
CAPER

PAYBACKS ARE HELL

BY DENNIS EICHHORN ©92 ART BY MICHAEL DOUGAN

I'D BEEN PICKED UP ON A MINOR DRUG POSSESSION CHARGE
IN SPOKANE WASHINGTON. MAX, A LOCAL ATTORNEY, GOT ME
OFF WITH A SCOLDING...

I WILL, YOUR HONOR.

STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
MR. EICHHORN...

MAX...I'M
BROKE.

JUST
REMEMBER...
YOU OWE ME
A FAVOR.

BANG
BANG

**A FEW MONTHS LATER, WHILE
ON VACATION...**

BURGDORF
HOT SPRINGS

TELEGRAM FOR
DENNIS EICHHORN!

HERE...

WESTERN UNION
DENNY: COME
AT ONCE STOP
NEED YOUR HELP
STOP SIGNED
MAX

UHOH...

**I DROVE NON-STOP TO SPOKANE.
THERE, MAX OUTLINED HIS PROBLEM.**

IT'S REALLY A SIMPLE
MATTER, DENNY...

I'VE GOT A CLIENT NAMED
VON GORE...

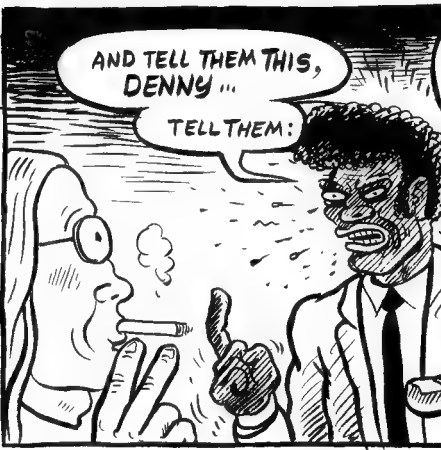
HE'S UP ON 1ST DEGREE
MURDER CHARGES.

WHO
DIED?

A GUY NAMED...

BREED...

...VON GORE ADMITS SHOOTING HIM.
BREED WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GUANOS MOTORCYCLE CLUB...



... PROVIDED YOU DON'T TRY PUSHING
MAX AROUND AND TELLING HIM
WHO TO REPRESENT!
THAT SWORD CAN CUT BOTH WAYS!"



TELL THEM, "MAX GIVES
ALL OF HIS CLIENTS ONE
HUNDRED PERCENT!"

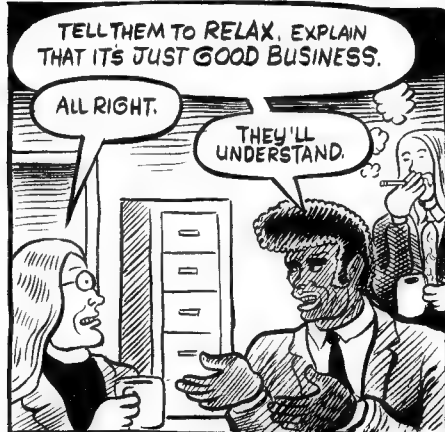
O.K.



TELL THEM TO RELAX. EXPLAIN
THAT IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS.

ALL RIGHT.

THEY'LL
UNDERSTAND.



I'M SURE THEY WILL...

HERE'S A LIST OF NAMES
AND ADDRESSES TO GET YOU
STARTED... GOOD LUCK,
DENNY... TAKE CARE OF THIS
AND WE'LL TALK SOME MORE.



IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, I MET A LOT OF BIKERS.

GRADUALLY, A
STORY EMERGED.

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
MAX IS JUST TAKIN'
CARE OF BUSINESS.
I CAN DIG IT.

Y'KNOW, YOU
LOOK A LOT LIKE
BREED, 'CEPT
HE HAD A
MOUSTACHE...



YEAH, THEY'D
BEEN DRINKIN'...

YOU KNOW
WHO HE LOOKS
LIKE?

YEAH...

BREED.



VON GORE WAS BIG AND BAD,
A LONE-WOLF BIKER WHO KNEW
SOME OF THE GUANOS...

... HE HAD HONORABLE DISCHARGES
FROM BOTH THE ARMY AND NAVY...

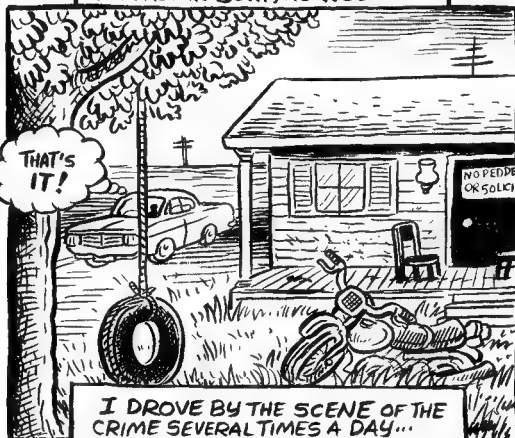


...AND HAD EARNED SHARPSHOOTER
MEDALS IN BOTH, AS WELL...

VON GORE WAS 35, UNMARRIED,
NO CHILDREN. HE LIVED WITH A
WOMAN AT...

HEY!

THAT'S ONLY A FEW
BLOCKS FROM WHERE
I'M STAYING!



I DROVE BY THE SCENE OF THE
CRIME SEVERAL TIMES A DAY...

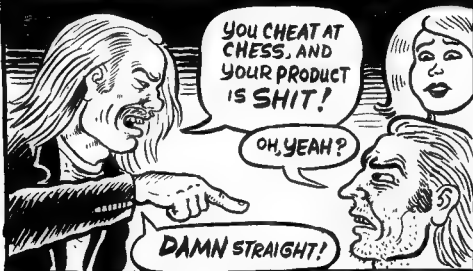
THE NIGHT BREED DIED, THERE HAD
BEEN A PARTY AT VON GORE'S PLACE.

CHECK!

VON GORE WAS BEATING
BREED AT CHESS...



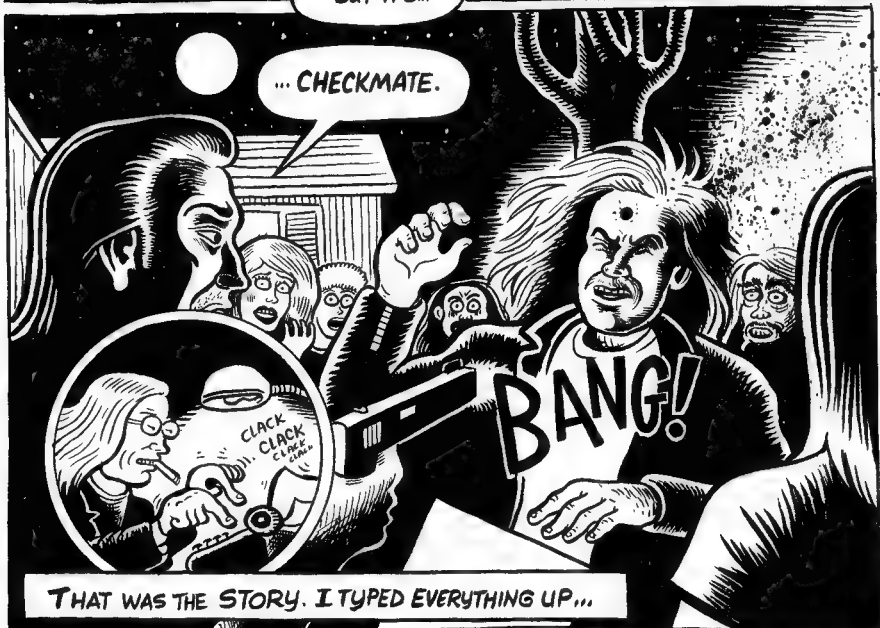
... AND THERE WAS SOME TALK
OF A DRUG DEAL ...

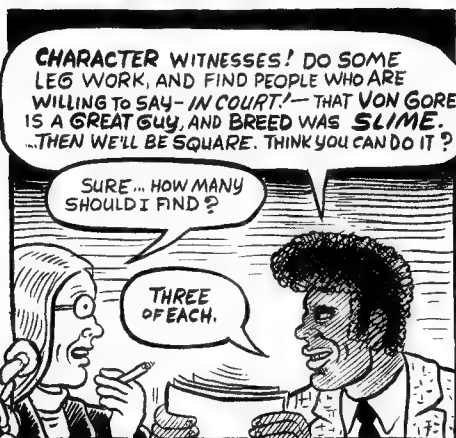


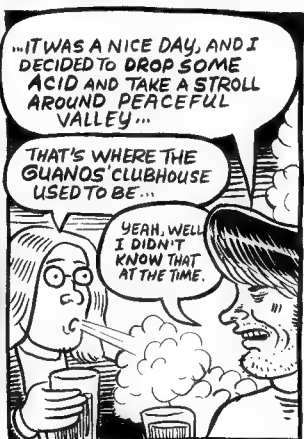
... BEFORE BREED CALLED
VON GORE OUT...



EVERYONE GATHERED IN THE YARD.
BREED AND VON GORE FACED OFF...







...TWO POLICEMEN CAME BY LOOKING FOR A RUNAWAY TEENAGER, AND RESCUED ME.

...THE LATE MR. BREED LEFT ME A SOUVENIR TO REMEMBER HIM BY...

HALT!

LOOK AT THIS!

THAT'S QUITE A SCAR. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TESTIFY AS TO HOW YOU GOT IT?

PUT ME UNDER OATH AND I'LL TELL THE WORLD.

SAY DENNY... DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU...

I KNOW, I KNOW, I LOOK A LOT LIKE BREED...

A LOT.

...THAT MADE THREE ANTI-BREED WITNESSES... FINDING THREE PRO-VON GORE WITNESSES WAS EASY, TOO...

...ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TALK WITH HIS BOSS, A CO-WORKER, AND AN OLD SERVICE BUDDY WHO WAS NOW A COP IN SPOKANE.

HE'S A STEADY WORKER...

...RELIABLE...

...AND A MODEL CITIZEN.

THE DAY OF THE TRIAL FINALLY ARRIVED. WHEN I WENT TO THE COURTHOUSE...

INSIDE THE COURTROOM, MAX AND AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR WERE WORKING OUT A PLEA BARGAIN...

LOOKS LIKE ALL THE GUANOS ARE ON HAND TO SEE JUSTICE DONE...

NO PRIORS... JOB IN KING COUNTY... WORK RELEASE...

SECOND DEGREE... TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION... PAROLE...

WHEN THE JUDGE ARRIVED, THE VON GORE CASE WAS SWIFTLY SETTLED...

WE PLEAD GUILTY TO SECOND-DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER, YOUR HONOR...

...WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WORK RELEASE AND INTENSIVE PAROLE SUPERVISION IN ANOTHER LOCALE, YOUR HONOR.

COURT IS ADJOURNED!

BANG

...VON GORE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AND TRANSFERRED TO A JAIL IN SEATTLE...

SOON AFTER, I SAID MY GOODBYES.



WELL, WE GOT HIM OFF... BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.

WHY? YOU DID A GREAT JOB!

...THERE, HE WAS PLACED ON WORK RELEASE. WITHIN 4-8 HOURS, VON GORE WAS BACK ON THE STREET.



THANKS... BUT VON GORE IS A COLD-BLOODED KILLER! I'M NOT SO SURE HE SHOULD BE RUNNING AROUND LOOSE...

RELAX, DENNY...

DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU. IT'S JUST BUSINESS. IT'S THE WAY THE SYSTEM WORKS. WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST FOR EVERY CLIENT.

BUT...







J.W.

